REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-10 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 are in independent form and have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Additional formal changes have been made to Claims 7 and 8. The specification and abstract have been amended as to matters of form. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawing was objected to as including a reference character not described in the specification, a typographical error in the specification was noted, and the abstract was objected to as being too long. In response, the specification has been amended to include a reference to the reference character in question ("S16", see Fig. 3), the typographical error has been corrected, and the abstract has been shortened. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0093698 (Kagawa) in view of U.S. Patents 5,724,579 (Suzuki) and 5,973,755 (Gabriel).

The present invention is directed to solving a problem that has arisen with the huge popularity attained by digital cameras in recent years. As is explained in Applicant's specification, facsimile transmission of color information is conventionally performed in accordance with the ITU-T recommendations, and uses Lab color space. Digital cameras, however, use sYCC color space. It would be desirable to be able to perform facsimile-transmission of JPEG-encoded digital-camera color data as is, that is, without transforming it to Lab space. The JPEG data obtained from a digital camera is simple image data and not color-document information, which is what is transmitted in standard color transmission using the mentioned ITU-backed approach. Since the pixel size of the image are reported to the receiving side by means of a header of a JPEG file, there is no negotiation over the transmission resolution and document size, such as would occur when color-document information is transmitted. The present invention is intended to provide a way to clarify the protocol used in transmitting a plurality of JPEG images in sYCC color space, as in transmitting images that have been stored on a flash memory card, because, in the past, the protocol between successive images has not been defined.

In the aspect of the present invention set out in Claim 1, such protocol is clarified, as follows. In a facsimile transmission for a plurality of color document images read by a scanner, only Lab is only defined as a color space, and a PPS-MPS signal is transmitted between successive images if the sizes of the successive images are the same, while a PPS-OEM signal is transmitted between the successive images if the sizes of the successive images differ from each other. A difference in size between successive images is important because where such a difference occurs, the sender must perform a pre-procedure for mode-change to transmit DIS signal and DCS signal to the receiver, and then transmit the subsequence image so that the receiver can select printing paper having the size of the subsequent image according to the size indicated by the received DCS signal. That is, in the past, if the sizes of successive images are different from each other, the sender must perform the pre-procedure.

Assuming that the sender transmits a plurality of images sensed by a digital camera and stored in a removable memory medium, to a receiver which itself stores the images in a removable memory medium such that a personal computer at the receiver side can directly use the images, the receiver may merely receive the images and store them in the removable memory. For this, the receiver does not need to detect the size of each of the images. In other words, the sender does not need to perform the pre-procedure for an image following an image of a different size. Therefore, according to Claim 1, if a plurality of JPEG files in sYCC color space stored in a removable storage medium have been selected as image files to be transmitted, then according to Claim 1 the sender transmits a PPS-MPS between successive image files to be transmitted, irrespective of the number of pixels in the main-scan direction in respective image file information, and then transmits a subsequent image file without performing the pre-procedure for the latter image file.

Kagawa is silent about procedure between pages. *Suzuki* merely describes about the border line in the file header of a file including a main-image and a sub-image. Both of these references fail to teach or suggest that if a plurality of JPEG files in sYCC color space stored in a removable storage medium have been selected as image files to be transmitted, a PPS-MPS signal should be transmitted, between successive image files to be transmitted, irrespective of the number of pixels in the main-scan direction in respective image file information, followed by transmitting a subsequent image file without processing pre-procedure for the latter image file, as recited in Claim 1.

Gabriel also is not directed to a technique of facsimile communication.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claim 1 is allowable over these documents, taken separately or in any permissible combination (if any).

Each of the other independent claims contains recitations like those discussed above with regard to Claim 1, and Claims 5, 9 and 10 therefore are also deemed allowable over *Kagawa*, *Suzuki* and *Gabriel*, taken separately or in combination.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

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